

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for an on-line server responsive to a client, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the client, the server being chosen from a list of servers available to the client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request based on ~~characteristics of the client~~ being a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and

if the server determines that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, sending an error message to the client, the error message identifying the server as being off-line to enable the client to send the request to a next server on the list of servers.

2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request from the client comprises generating the request at a queue manager of the client.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the client receives the request from the queue manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the request from the client is received from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

5. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein sending the request from the client further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

6. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a client to perform a method comprising:

- sending a request to a server, the server being chosen from a list of servers available to the client;
- receiving a response to the request from the server; and
- upon determining that the response comprises an error message that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, when the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received;

wherein the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server.

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7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein sending a request to a server comprises generating the request at a queue manager of the client.

8. (Original): The medium of claim 7, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the queue manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

9. (Original): The medium of claim 8, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

10. (Original): The medium of claim 9, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

11-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended): A client computer comprising:
a communications device; and,

a computer program designed to automatically repeat sending a request to a different server of a list of servers via the communications device, the automatic repeat sending ~~each time is responsive to an off-line error message is received~~ indicating that a server is off-line; ~~the off-line error message received from on-line servers that determine that the client computer is incapable of receiving delegated responses to requests and from servers that are off line;~~

wherein the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server.

17-18. (Canceled).

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19. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a server to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request from a client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request;

determining whether the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and ~~and;~~

upon determining that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request due to the client being non-delegable ~~such that the client would not understand a delegation of the request to another server~~, sending an error message to the client that causes the client to forward the request to an alternative server.

20. (Previously Presented): The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising:

determining whether the client is of a type capable of understanding a delegation of the request;

upon determining that the sever is inappropriate to fulfill the request and that the client is of the type capable of understanding a delegation, delegating the request to another server.

21. (Original): The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising upon determining that the server is appropriate to fulfill the request, fulfilling the request.

22-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to transform a general purpose computer to a special purpose computer comprising:

a communications device; ~~and~~ and

means for sending via the communications device an error message that a computer is off-line in response to a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server when the computer is on-line but is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

27. (Original): The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for delegating the request to another computer via the communications device in response to a request from a client of a second predetermined type when the computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

28. (Original): The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for fulfilling the request when the computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended): A method for a server, ~~the method~~ comprising:
receiving a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server;

determining whether the request can be fulfilled locally; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled locally, sending an error message indicating that the server is off-line to enable the non-delegable client to send the request to a next server handling the request according to characteristics of the client.

31. (Currently Amended): A method for enabling non-delegable clients to exist in a client-server architecture having servers that do not maintain enterprise-wide directory service-related information, the method comprising:

providing each of the servers in the client-server architecture with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server to determine ~~characteristics of~~ a client from which the server receives a request is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and

responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled, sending an error message that results in the non-delegable client determining that the server is unavailable to receive the request
~~responding according to the characteristics of the client.~~

32-33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended): A server computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

a computer program with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server computer to perform:

determining ~~characteristics of whether~~ a client from which the server receives a request is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and

responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled, responding ~~according to the characteristics of the client~~ by providing that the communications device send an error

message to the non-delegable client that will cause the client to send the request to an alternative server computer ~~even if the client is non-delegable~~.

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35. (Currently Amended): The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to delegate the request to another server computer via the communications device in response to a request from a delegable client that understands a delegation of the request to another server of a second predetermined type ~~when the~~ server computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

36. (Previously Presented): The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to fulfill the request when the server computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.
